

BUS BARN STAGE COMPANY

THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES

BY JOHN GUARE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JOHN GUARE

DIRECTED BY JEANIE K. SMITH

STAFF

Technical Director and Lighting Design

David Ferlauto

Scenic Design

Margaret Toomey

Properties Design

Patricia Tyler

Costume Design

Carol Clever

Sound Design

Gordon Smith

Stage Manager

Dianne Vega

CAST

Artie Shaughnessy

Ronnie Shaughnessy

Bunny Flingus

Bananas

Corinna Stroller

Head Nun

Second Nun

Little Nun

M.P.

The White Man

Billy Einhorn

Jeff Swan

Ronald Feichtmeir

Deb Anderson

Patricia Tyler

Brooke Silva

Edie Dwan

Lucinda Dobinson

Jessica Yurash

Scott Stanley

Daniel Tookman

Todd Wright

SETTING

A cold apartment in Sunnyside, Queens, New York City.

TIME

October 4, 1965

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

The House of Blue Leaves is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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THE ACTORS



Jeff Swan (Artie Shaughnessy) is glad to be back at Bus Barn Stage several years after performing in *Mrs. Bob Cratchett's Wild Christmas Binge*. Jeff has also performed Edward Carr in *Wrecks*, a one man play by Neil LaButte. Other work includes *Light in the Piazza*, Greg in *Sylvia*, Ross in *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia*, Albert in *The Dinner Party*, Felix in *The Odd Couple*, Uncle Peck in *How I Learned to Drive*, Selsdon in *Noises Off* and the Butler in *Anne Warbucks*.



Ronald Feichtmeir (Ronnie Shaughnessy) Ronald graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a certificate in Theatre Arts and a bachelors in Psychology. Recently he's acted in *You Can't Take It With You* with the Palo Alto Players, and in *The Cherry Orchard* at the Pear Ave. Theater also directed by Jeanie Smith. This is his second show at the Bus Barn, where he played Osip, the effete valet in *The Government Inspector* last year.



Deb Anderson (Bunny Flingus) has trod the Bus Barn stage since the theater's inaugural season in 1996. Her first show was *The Baby Dance* and she was most recently seen in the theater's last show *On Golden Pond*. Previous appearances at Bus Barn include Charlotte in *The Real Thing*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Ellen in *Over the Tavern*. Other BBSC shows include *The Government Inspector*, *The Altos*, *Treasure Island*, *The Laramie Project*, *Dinner with Friends*, *On The Verge* and *The Dining Room*. Deb has worked in Bay Area for many years at theaters including San Jose Rep, City Lights, San Jose Stage Company and the San Jose Shakespeare Festival. Some of her favorite roles are Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Lady MacBeth, and Sylvia in *Sylvia*.



Patricia Tyler (Bananas) is delighted to be performing once again at the Bus Barn Stage Co. where she was last seen in *Moon over Buffalo* (Charlotte) and *Bus Stop* (Grace). Other recent credits include *The Apple Never Falls* (Meg); *Angels in America* (Rabbi, Hannah); *Our Town* (Mrs. Webb); *The Illusion* (Alcandre); and *Nickel & Dime* (Barbara) at the Pear. *All My Sons* (Kate) at Douglas Morrison; *Noises Off* (Dottie) at Coastal Rep; *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at City Lights; *Seascape* (Nancy) and *Side Man* (Patsy) at Dragon; *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs) at Palo Alto Players. Her areas of performance include puppetry (Lunatique Fantastique), improvisation (Second City), mime (Seattle Mime Theatre), and film (*Dumbarton Bridge*, *Trouble in Mind*).



Brooke Silva (Corinna Stroller) This is Brooke's first appearance with Bus Barn. She is a Bay Area native, but has spent the past five years studying theatre at CSU Fullerton, Trinity University College in Wales, and she recently received her Bachelor's degree in Theatre from CSU Long Beach. Her most recent credits include Francis in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, Olympia in *Big Love*, and a Witch in the Livermore Shakespeare Festival's *Macbeth*.



Edie Dwan (Head Nun) dons the habit once again having recently played Sister Aloysius in *Doubt* at Canada College. Other recent roles include Rebecca Nurse (yes, another religious woman) in *The Crucible* and servant/puppeteer in *The Winter's Tale*, both at Foothill College, and Villager in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Woodside Community Theatre. Growing up in Palo Alto and attending Stanford University (B.A. Psychology) Edie was involved in theatre, but after college she took a lengthy absence to raise a family and have a career. In the last few years, she's begun to dabble in theatre again and is enjoying getting back in the game. When Edie is not playing religious women, she rides horses, sings occasionally, reads, and enjoys hanging out with friends.



Lucinda Dobinson (Second Nun) will be making her debut at Bus Barn with this production. Her most recent roles were Dunyasha in *The Cherry Orchard* at the Pear Avenue Theater, and Goneril in *King Lear* at Shady Shakespeare. Other notable roles include Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Northside Theater Company, Lise in *Cyrano* at City Lights, and Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew* also at Shady Shakespeare Theatre Company. She holds both a BA and MA in Theatre Arts from San Jose State University.



Jessica Yurash (Young Nun) was in her first play when she was 8-years-old. Growing up through theatre helped instill in her confidence, bravery, and a love of art. Besides being an actor, Jessica is a professional Body Painter. This is Jessica's first performance at Bus Barn. She got her A.A. in Performing Arts and Drama in 2011, and is now a working artist and childcare provider. Some of her favorite roles have been Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* at Palo Alto Children's Theatre, Jeannie in *Fat Pig* at Canada College, and Helen of Troy in *Dr. Faustus* at Foothill College.



Scott Stanley (M.P.) is a Los Altos resident delighted to be making his Bus Barn debut. He was recently seen as the Bishop of Lax in *See How They Run* at Hillbarn Theater and Milos Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happen on the Way to the Forum* at PCP. Favorite roles are Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man* at Broadway by the Bay and Max Detweiler in *The Sound of Music* at San Carlos Children's Theater. Other shows include *Ragtime* at Hillbarn, *Finian's Rainbow* at South Bay Musical Theatre, *Sweeney Todd* and *Kiss Me, Kate* at Santa Clara Players and *Sweet Charity* at West Valley Light Opera. He would like to thank his very supportive family.



Daniel H. Tookman (The White Man) Daniel returns to the Bus Barn Stage for his second foray as an actor, having just made his debut as Charley in *On Golden Pond*. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio - Daniel's creative tendencies began with music (violin, guitar, piano) but he'd always hoped for the opportunity to get involved with acting and production and this proved to be an excellent opportunity for him to do so. Having spent nearly 15 years in the corporate world after earning his Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University in 1999, Daniel is enjoying tapping in to his creative side.



Todd Wright (Billy Einhorn) is thrilled to be working at Bus Barn for the first time, Todd has worked in the South Bay at Theatreworks, The Pear Ave, South Bay Musical Theatre, Foothill Musical Theatre, Broadway West, and Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival. Enjoy the Show.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Guare was born in New York, NY on February 5, 1938. He wrote his first play at the age of eleven and very early became dissatisfied with traditional kitchen-sink dramas in which everything was “real” right down to the kitchen-sink. He yearned for a theatre that would proclaim inner truth rather than surface reality. “The theater,” Guare argued, “is a place of dreams where you lay out the unconscious and make it visible.”

After studying at Yale University, Guare set out to develop his own unique style of theatrical comedy, and he was soon rewarded with an Obie Award for his one-act play, *Muzeeka* (1968), but it was not until 1970 that he burst onto the national scene with *House of Blue Leaves*, a darkly comic attack on American values that disrupted the conventions of realistic theatre by including the kitchen sink, but cramming it with “lots of songs and talking to the audience.” In 1971 he wrote the libretto for *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, a pop-rock musical adaptation of Shakespeare's play which he created with composer Galt Macdermot (*Hair*) and Mel Shapiro. The musical was designed to play in the back of a truck from which it would tour the parks of New York, but the show was so successful that it soon moved to Broadway where it went on to win the Tony Award for “Best Musical.”

Perhaps Guare himself best describes his personal struggle with realistic drama when he asks, “Does the playwright elect to keep that kitchen sink to soothe the audience? Does the playwright dismantle the kitchen sink and take the audience into dangerous terrain? How the playwright resolves this tension between surface reality and inner reality, how the playwright restores the theater to its true nature as a place of poetry, song, joy, a place of darkness where the bright truth is told, that war against the kitchen sink is ultimately the history of our theater.”

His best known works include *House of Blue Leaves* (which won both an Obie and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for the Best American Play of 1970-71 and received four Tony Awards during its 1986 revival), *Four Baboons Adoring the Sun* (which was produced at the Lincoln Center Theater in 1992 and was nominated for four Tony Awards), and *Six Degrees of Separation* (which received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1990 and an Olivier Best Play Award in 1993.)

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Jeanie K. Smith (Director) Jeanie's directing credits include four world premieres – *Vehicle*, *A Beautiful Home for the Incurable*, *Veracruz*, and *Familiar Strangers* – as well as the classics *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *The Seagull*, *Night of the Iguana*, *A Doll's House*, *Three Sisters*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, *Metamorphoses*, *Hay Fever*, and *Angels in America: Part One*, all at the Pear Avenue Theatre. *The Seagull* won her the Dean Goodman Choice Award, and several of her shows have won WAVE Small Theatre awards. Other productions include *Noises Off* and *Light in the Piazza* for Palo Alto Players, *Bus Stop* and last season's *The Clean House* at the Bus Barn, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Dragon. She holds a PhD. in Theatre from the U. of Washington, reviews theatre for the Palo Alto Weekly, designs sound, and teaches all things computers.

Dianne Vega (Stage Manager) has been working as a stage manager and production manager for over twenty years working with various South Bay companies. She is pleased to stage manage for the second time with Bus Barn Stage Company having stage managed *The Clean House*. Dianne recently stage managed *La Llorona* with Opera Cultura, *The Moon for the Misbegotten* with The Pear Avenue Theatre, *9 Circles* with Renegade Theatre Experiment, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Tongue of a Bird* with Dragon Productions. Other stage management credits include: *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*, and *Fences* with Tabia, numerous productions with City Lights Theatre Co., as well as other companies in the South Bay such as Palo Alto Players and TheatreWorks. She is the production manager for Teatro Visión in San José.

Margaret Toomey (Scenic Design) works nationally in costume, scenic, and prop design and production. Recent local credits include: *A Chorus Line* at Broadway by the Bay; *Pericles* at Shady Shakespeare; *The Wizard of Oz* at Pied Piper Players; *The Gondoliers* at Lyric Theatre; *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast* at California Theatre Center; and *The Cherry Orchard* at Hapgood Theatre. National credits include: Triad Stage (Greensboro, NC); Dallas Children's Theater; Dallas Theater Center; WaterTower Theatre (Addison, TX); Portland Stage Company (Portland, ME); and ArtsWest Playhouse (Seattle). Margaret received her MFA in Scenography from UNC Greensboro and BA in Theatre from Grinnell College in Iowa.

Carol Clever (Costume Design) is an international costume designer who has established her craft in Germany, Spain, and England, and is now a local capacity in the Bay Area theatre circles. She is pleased to work with such a wonderful cast and production team, and has been a stage manager for Bus Barn's *Angels in America* in the past. Her designs for the 2012/2013 season include Foothill College's production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Oliver Twist* for The Woodside Priory Prep School, *Flat Stanley* (Stage Manager) and *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet* (costume and properties design) for The Harker Prep School. Carol is an award winning costume designer and stylist, who very much enjoys costume design for industrial print, working with such names as Eric Almas and Christine Featherstone, and music videos and film productions in cooperation with the Berkeley Digital Film Institute, Rob Nilsson/San Francisco, Two Trick Pony Productions/Oakland, and Headlight Films, New York/Los Angeles.

David Ferlauto (Lighting Design) is the Master Carpenter and Technical Director for the Bus Barn Stage Company. He has been working as a lighting and scenic designer and builder for many years, with organizations such as Bus Barn, Dragon Productions, West Bay Opera, Teatro Vision, Los Lupenos, and San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild among others. His most recent lighting design work at Bus Barn was on last season's *The Clean House*.

Gordon Smith (Sound Design) has done sound design and assistant direction for shows at the Pear Avenue Theatre and Dragon Productions, and is happy to now add Bus Barn Stage to the list. He continues to enjoy experiencing the process of theatre, from casting to opening, and thanks Jeanie for introducing him to this world.

SPECIAL THANKS

Carol Fischer, Brad Weisburg, and West Valley College
Renegade Theatre Experiment
Palo Alto Players
City of Los Altos Youth Theatre
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Foothill College Department of Theater
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LES CONTES
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LUCIA DI
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Feb 15, 17, 23, 24, 2013



OTELLO
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BUS BARN THEATER

97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022
In the Hillview Community Center

BOX OFFICE

Is located next to theater. Tickets and Information: (650) 941-0551. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Will Call opens 30 minutes before curtain.

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm; Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm,
Sunday at 3 pm unless otherwise noted.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES

Preview Thursday: \$24
Opening Night (includes champagne reception with cast): \$32
Wednesday: \$24
Thu/Fri/Sat: \$30
Sunday: \$26
Student price of \$18, excluding Opening Night!

GROUP DISCOUNTS

Are available to groups of 10 or more. Call the Box Office for details.

TICKET EXCHANGES

Only subscribers can exchange their tickets, free of charge. All exchanges are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee the same assigned seats. Sorry, no ticket refunds.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING

Is available. Please notify the Box Office in advance when purchasing tickets.

PLEASE REMEMBER

There is no smoking in the theater. Cameras and recording devices are prohibited. As a courtesy to other patrons, please turn off your pager, cell phone or watch alarm during the performance.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

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Now Playing!

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APRIL – MAY				
Wed. 7:30	Thur. 8:00	Fri. 8:00	Sat. 8:00	Sun.
	11	12★	13	
	18	19●	20◆	21*
24	25	26	27	28**
MAY 1	2	3	4	5*

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Wed. 7:30	Thur. 8:00	Fri. 8:00	Sat. 8:00	Sun.
	23	24★	25	
	30	31●	JUN 1◆	2*
5	6	7	8	9**
12	13	14	15	16*
19	20	21	22	

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